

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/365,066

Examiner

Nga B. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

FRUTUOSO ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Appeal Brief filed on June 27, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6-8, 10, 12-15, 17-22, 24, 29-34, 36, 38-46, 52-62, and 71.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/29/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to the Appeal Brief filed on June 27, 2007, which paper has been placed of record in the file.
2. Claims **1-4, 6-8, 10, 12-15, 17-22, 24, 29-34, 36, 38-46, 52-62, and 71** are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter/Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims **1, 13 and 18** are allowed over the prior arts cited records.

The closest prior arts are:

1) Borghesi (US 5,950,169) discloses a system and method for managing and processing insurance claims is provided that implements an object oriented graphic user interface. The system includes at least one remote computer for entering and viewing insurance claim information. A wide area network capable of communicating with the remote computer and a computer in communication with said wide area network are also included. An insurance datafile, generated at said remote computer, is transferrable over the network. The method includes the steps of transmitting a claim assignment from an insurance office computer to a mailbox in a communications server, retrieving the assignment at a remote computer and generating an insurance claim datafile containing all data pertinent to an insurance claim and allowing for bidirectional transmission of the datafile over a wide area network. A graphic user interface for use in managing an insurance claim from an initial claim to final settlement is also included. The interface has common workflow objects such as an in box, an in process box, and an out box, for managing and manipulating one or more workfiles. Moreover, Borghesi discloses obtaining an administrative system wherein the administrative system is

configured to receive incoming transaction from one or more sending trading partner (column 16, lines 4-10; the home office sends a claim assignment to the body shop via the mailbox), add additional information to the incoming transactions and send the modified transactions to one or more receiving trading partners (column 12, lines 14-58; when a user is creating a workfile for a specific claim, the user enters vehicle identification into the workfile, the system automatically selects a database 222 from which to access parts lists and values for the particular vehicle, specially, when the user chooses to have the vehicle identification number (VIN) decoded in the database, the system automatically reads from the database the manufacturer make and model associated with the vehicle, the additional information is identified by identified by at least one business rule which is VIN is a key word to search for additional information of the vehicle); receiving at least one incoming transaction from at least one sending trading partner (column 16, lines 4-10; the home office sends a claim assignment to the body shop via the mailbox); automatically applying one or more-business rules to the at least one incoming transaction to identify one or more source fields of the administration system 'that contain information to be added to one or more information fields of the at least one incoming transaction; automatically modifying the additional information read from the source fields using one or more of source-side functions (column 12, lines 14-58; when a user is creating a workfile for a specific claim, the user enters vehicle identification into the workfile, the system automatically selects a database 222 from which to access parts lists and values for the particular vehicle, specially, when the user chooses to have the vehicle identification number (VIN) decoded in the database, the system automatically reads from the database the manufacturer make and model associated with the vehicle, the additional information is identified by identified by at least one business rule which is VIN is a key word to search for additional information of

the vehicle); automatically reading the identified additional information from one or more source fields of the administration system in response to receiving at least one incoming transaction from the at least one sending trading partner (column 12, lines 14-58, when the user chooses to have the vehicle identification number (VIN) decoded in the database, the system automatically reads from the database the manufacturer make and model associated with the vehicle, the additional information is identified by identified by at least one business rule which is VIN is a key word to search for additional information of the vehicle); automatically generating at least one outgoing transaction, where the at least one outgoing transaction comprises data from the incoming transaction and the additional information read from one or more source fields of the administration system (column 12, line 59-column 13, line 60; generating a valuation request in response to reading the vehicle data from the database, the valuation request comprises data from claim assignment and additional data read from the database); automatically sending at least one outgoing transaction to at least one receiving trading partner (column 16, lines 46-49; sending the estimate to the appraiser/adjuster).

2) Hoover (US 5,724,575) discloses an object-based relational distributed database system and associated methods of operation that transforms data stored in a plurality of remote, heterogeneous user databases into a homogeneous data model is disclosed. Data stored in distributed, heterogeneous user database structures is homogenized by mapping into object attributes of predetermined instances of objects forming to a conceptual model that relates the various heterogeneous databases. The object attributes are stored in remote databases at client sites, which can be separate computer systems from the heterogeneous user databases or separate processes

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running on a computer system that maintains the heterogeneous user databases. The system stores location information and status information relating to the homogenized data in a centralized object broker for object management, thereby facilitating location and retrieval of data items from one or more of the remote, heterogeneous user databases. Moreover, Hoover discloses generating a map for the administrative system, wherein generating the map comprises: selecting one or more source fields from the administrative system, wherein each source field corresponds to a source for the additional information; associating a destination field with the one or more selected source fields, wherein each destination field corresponds to an information field of an incoming transaction to which additional information can be added; and associating one or more source-side functions with the one or more selected source fields, wherein the source-side functions modify the additional information added to the destination field from the one or more selected source fields; automatically selecting one or more destination fields using pathways established in the generated map; automatically adding the modified additional information to the one or more selected destination fields (see columns 24-55).

3) Richards (US 6,408,303) discloses a system and method for building a trading partner profile for use with commercial translator software is disclosed. A list of file types, maps for translating data formats, and instructions for invoking commercial translator software determines what file types a business is willing to accept. Information from this list as well as information from an incoming file is used to create a trading partner profile that the commercial translator software relies on to perform a

translation of data from one format (e.g., an EDI standard format) to another format (e.g., a format for a business applications). After determination of the incoming file type, information from the incoming file and the list of file type/map/instructions is extracted to build a trading partner profile that is stored in a trading partner profile database. The commercial translator software uses the trading partner profile to complete the translation of the incoming file to a format for use by business or other applications. Moreover, Richards discloses translating at least one incoming transaction into a computer data format decipherable by a receiving trading partner transaction processing software (see abstract and column 1, lines 45-55).

4) Wamsley (US 5,956,687) discloses a technique for computerized management of a plaintiff's personal injury case is disclosed. This technique includes establishing records, each reflective of the phase of a corresponding personal injury claim. The first phase corresponds to pre-negotiation of the claim and includes at least a first and second subordinate pre-negotiation stage. Each of these stages includes the generation of a number of prompts directed to obtaining information about the claim. A given record may also be set to a second management phase corresponding to negotiation of the claim or a third management phase representing settlement of the claim. In addition, the present invention discloses a technique to automatically generate a demand letter and calculate settlement amounts from information gathered in the record during pursuit of the claim. The management system may also include scheduling various prompts and correspondence with the program in accordance with a predetermined schedule spanning several days. Moreover, Wamsley discloses the

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computer system implements storing a schedule in memory, wherein the schedule relates to the incoming transaction (see column 32, line 49-column 33, line 20, a first schedule spanning a first number of days for receiving information about the claim for each of the records, a second schedule spanning a second number of days for formulating a proposed settlement amount for the injury).

Therefore, it is clear from the description of Borghesi's, Hoover's, Richards's and Wamsley's inventions that the prior arts do not considered the possibility of: determining whether to apply one or more source-side functions to the one or more source fields; and, if a source-side function is applied to the one or more source fields, associating one or more source-side functions with the one or more selected source fields, wherein the source-side functions modify the additional information added to the destination field from the one or more selected source fields; wherein the value of each destination field is the resulting value of the sum of the values of the selected source fields after application of the source-side function; and determining whether to apply a destination-side function to one or more of the destination fields; and, if a destination-side function is applied to the destination fields, associating one or more destination-side functions with the one or more of the selected destination fields, wherein the destination-side functions modify the additional information added to the destination field from the associated source fields, wherein the value of the destination field is the resulting value of first summing the values of the associated source fields and then applying the destination-side function; receive at least one incoming transaction from the at least one sending trading partner, as included in claims 1, 13, and 18.

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4. Claims (2-4, 6-8, 10, 12, 52-57, 71), (14, 15, 17) and (19-22, 24, 29-34, 36, 38-46, 58-62), are allowed because they are dependent claims of the allowable independent claims 1, 13 and 18 above, in that order.

Conclusion

5. Claims **1-4, 6-8, 10, 12-15, 17-22, 24, 29-34, 36, 38-46, 52-62, and 71** are allowed.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Nga B. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Abdi can be reached on (571) 272-6702.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600.

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communication intended for entry),

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or

(571) 273-0325 (for informal or draft communication, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Knox Building, 501 Dulany
Street, Alexandria, VA, First Floor (Receptionist).



NGA NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

September 12, 2007